CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. An engine installation jig comprising:

a longitudinal member;

a first lateral crossbar member coupled to said longitudinal member;

a second lateral crossbar member coupled to said longitudinal member;

a plurality of drill fixtures; and

at least one leveling device;

wherein when said jig is installed into a marine vessel, said at least one leveling device is manipulated to adjust the position of said jig.

2. The engine installation jig of claim 1, further comprising a fixture head, said fixture head coupling said jig to a propeller shaft of a marine vessel.

3. The engine installation jig of claim 1, further comprising at least one leveling sensor, said leveling sensor providing a visual indication of the planar orientation of said jig.

4. The engine installation jig of claim 1 wherein said at least one of said first lateral crossbar member and second lateral crossbar member are removably coupled to said longitudinal member.

5. The engine installation jig of claim 1 wherein said at least one of said first lateral crossbar member and second lateral crossbar member are slidably attached and selectively secured to said longitudinal member.

6. The engine installation jig of claim 1 wherein said longitudinal member is a telescoping longitudinal member.

7. The engine installation jig of claim 1 wherein said plurality of drill fixtures are coupled to ends of said first lateral crossbar member and said second lateral crossbar member according to predetermined engine installation criteria.

8. The engine installation jig of claim 1 wherein said plurality of drill fixtures are interchangeable.

9. The engine installation jig of claim 8 wherein said plurality of drill fixtures are contoured to give a visual representation of a plurality of engine mounts of the engine to be installed in the marine vessel.

10. The engine installation jig of claim 2 wherein said fixture head is removably coupled to said jig at a plurality of positions according to predetermined engine installation criteria.

11. The engine installation jig of claim 2 wherein said fixture head is pivotally coupled to said jig such that the angular orientation of said fixture head may be adjusted according to predetermined engine installation criteria.

12. The engine installation jig of claim 1, wherein said at least one leveling device couples said jig to stringers of the marine vessel.

13. A method for installing an engine in a marine vessel, said method comprising the steps of:

mating said jig to a propeller shaft of the marine vessel;

coupling said jig upon a plurality of stringers in the marine vessel;

adjusting the position of said jig relative to the marine vessel using a leveling device according to predetermined engine installation criteria;

drilling a plurality of engine mount drill holes through drill bushings in said jig;

removing said jig from the marine vessel; and

positioning the engine into the marine vessel so that said plurality of engine mount drill holes align with a plurality of engine mounts of the engine.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said coupling step includes attaching a plurality of stringer brackets to stringers of the marine vessel.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said coupling step further includes securing said jig to said stringer brackets.

15. A method for installing an engine in a marine vessel, said method comprising the steps of:

mating said jig to a propeller shaft of the marine vessel;

coupling said jig upon a plurality of stringers in the marine vessel;

adjusting the position of said jig relative to the marine vessel using a leveling device according to predetermined engine installation criteria;

marking a plurality of engine mount drill holes through drill bushings in said jig;

removing said jig from the marine vessel;

drilling a plurality of engine mount drill holes according to markings resulting from said marking step; and

positioning the engine into the marine vessel so that said plurality of engine mount drill holes align with a plurality of engine mounts of the engine.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said coupling step includes attaching a plurality of stringer brackets to stringers of the marine vessel.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said coupling step further includes securing said jig to said stringer brackets.